



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes*

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## **SBA TO CLOSE DISASTER ASSISTANCE CENTER IN JACKSON COUNTY ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20**

**PASCAGOULA, MS** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that it will close its temporary disaster loan assistance center in Jackson County on Wednesday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m. according to SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen. The center, located in Pascagoula at the Jackson County Emergency Operations Center, 600 Covenant Avenue (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), has been open since October 12.

Individuals and businesses that were affected by Hurricane Ivan, which occurred September 13-20, have only a few days left to get personal help with their SBA disaster loan applications. “We keep our offices open as long as there appears to be a need for SBA assistance. We’ve seen very few people at this location over the past few days. That tells us we’ve probably met the needs of those in the area that were interested in getting help,” Allen said.

“If you had any damage caused by Hurricane Ivan, I hope you’ll come to the center and personally meet with an SBA loan officer. Our staff will be glad to answer any questions about the disaster loan program, give you an application, and provide any extra help you may need or want in completing your application,” Allen added.

Victims that sustained damage due to Hurricane Ivan in the declared counties of Jackson, Clarke, George, Hancock, Harrison, Lauderdale, Perry, Stone and Wayne and contiguous counties of Forrest, Jasper, Jones, Kemper, Neshoba, Newton and Pearl River are eligible to apply for these SBA disaster loans.

“I also want to express my thanks to the Jackson County Emergency Management for providing the space for our center. The courtesy extended to our staff is greatly appreciated,” Allen said.

After the disaster center closes, applications and program information will still be available by calling the SBA toll-free at 1-800-359-2227. Completed applications should be returned to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Assistance - Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

**The deadlines for applying for these SBA loans are November 15, 2004 for physical damage and June 15, 2005 for economic injury.**

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For more information visit SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)

SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 2—One Baltimore Place, Suite 300—Atlanta, GA 30308